

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejection contained in the Office Action of June 19, 2007 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to recite that the plate, having a plurality of holes, is installed between the two protrusions, where the plate has one end fixed to one of the protrusions, and another end unfixed to, but kept in contact with, the other of the protrusions. The other end of the plate makes contact with the other of the protrusions between a tip end of the other of the protrusions and the transition piece.

JP 63-80021 has one end joined in another end fitted into a groove that is formed in a mortice portion 9 of a transition piece 1. See Fig. 1 of the reference. There is no disclosure or suggestion of one end being unfixed. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in this reference of an end that is unfixed to but kept in contact with the other protrusion, the other end of the plate making contact with the protrusion between a tip end and the transition piece. Note the discussion set forth in the response filed August 15, 2007.

In JP 62-288328, cited in combination with JP 2003-065071, the end is similarly fixed as in JP '021. The Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to make one end unfixed in order to lower heat transfer on the impingement plate or reduce the thermal stress is purely hindsight reasoning and unsupported by the teachings of the reference. Again, see the remarks accompanying the response of August 15, 2007.

By the above, claim 7 has been amended to recite an elastic plate that supports the other, unfixed, end of the impingement-cooling plate. The unfixed end is supported by the elastic plate making contact with it from the gas turbine inside diameter side. The elastic plate seals a gap between the transition piece and the impingement-cooling plate. Claim 7 was previously rejected by the Examiner, similarly, over JP 63-80021 by itself or in combination with JP 2003-065071, with the alternate citation of JP 62-288328.

JP 63-80021 has no elastic plate as recited.

JP 62-288328 discloses an elastic plate, but in this case it expands in an axial direction as a cooling cover slides. It does not support an unfixed end of the impingement-cooling plate by

supporting it from a gas turbine inside diameter side. Thus, claim 7 also clearly distinguishes over this reference.

In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 7 as now presented clearly distinguish over the prior art that has been cited by the Examiner. The Examiner's attention is further drawn to new dependent claims 14 and 15 emphasizing the distinct nature of the present invention, and these claims serve to further distinguish over the prior art. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 19, 2007